

## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5 A congestion control method and apparatus in a cell-switched data switch. The switch attaches a tag with a discard processing indicator, such as a particular random number, to all cells belonging to a same packet. In determining which cells to drop when running a congestion control algorithm such as RED, the switch compares the discard processing indicator of the cells  
10 with a discard criterion and only drops cells that conform with the discard criterion.

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